

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Kelli H. Kennedy et al.

Serial No.: 09/782,765

Filed: February 13, 2001

Docket No.: 10005680-1

Title: DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH CONSOLIDATED DOCUMENT SERVICES MANAGEMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing a document of a document provider, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, the method comprising:

registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers with a document distribution system controller, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services;

receiving a distribution request for the document from the document provider at the document distribution system controller;

compiling a list of distribution options for the document with the document distribution system controller based on the document distribution services of the document distribution providers; and

presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

linking the document provider and the document distribution system controller via a communication network, wherein receiving the distribution request includes receiving the distribution request for the document from the document provider via the communication network, and wherein presenting the list includes presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider via the communication network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a distribution selection for the document from the document provider, the distribution selection including at least one distribution option from the list of distribution options.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

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receiving a data file for the document from the document provider; and
distributing the data file for the document to at least one of the document distribution providers offering the at least one distribution option.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

linking the document provider and the document distribution providers via a communication network, wherein receiving the distribution selection includes receiving the distribution selection for the document from the document provider via the communication network, wherein receiving the data file includes receiving the data file for the document from the document provider via the communication network, and wherein distributing the data file includes distributing the data file for the document to the at least one of the document distribution providers via the communication network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

converting the data file for the document to a predetermined file format.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of distributing a document of a document provider, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, the method comprising:

registering document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services;

receiving a distribution request for the document from the document provider;

compiling a list of distribution options for the document based on the document distribution services of the document distribution providers; and

presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider.

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10. (Previously Presented) A system for distributing a document of a document provider, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, the system comprising:

a memory device configured to have document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers stored therein, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services; and

a processor adapted to compile a list of distribution options for the document based on the document distribution services of the document distribution providers; and

a user interface configured to present the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the memory device and the processor are included in a document distribution system controller, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a distribution request for the document from the document provider and present the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a communication network configured to link the document distribution system controller and the document provider, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive the distribution request for the document from the document provider via the communication network and present the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider via the communication network.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a distribution selection for the document from the document provider, the distribution selection including at least one distribution option from the list of distribution options for the document.

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15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a data file for the document from the document provider and distribute the data file for the document to at least one of the document distribution providers offering the at least one distribution option.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to convert the data file to a predetermined file format.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising:
a communication network configured to link the document distribution system controller, the document provider, and the document distribution providers, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive the data file for the document from the document provider via the communication network and distribute the data file for the document to the at least one of the document distribution providers via the communication network.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the method comprising:
registering the document distribution services of the document distribution providers with a document distribution system controller, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services;
presenting the document distribution services to a document provider having a document, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information; and
receiving a distribution selection for the document from the document provider at the document distribution system controller, the distribution selection specifying at least one document distribution service of the document distribution services.

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20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein presenting the document distribution services includes compiling a list of distribution options for the document based on the document distribution services and presenting the list of distribution options for the document to the document provider.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
linking the document distribution providers and the document distribution system controller via a communication network, wherein registering the document distribution services includes registering the document distribution services with the document distribution system controller via the communication network.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
managing the document distribution services at the document distribution system controller, including receiving a management instruction for the document distribution services at the document distribution system controller.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
linking a system administrator and the document distribution system controller via a communication network, wherein receiving the management instruction includes receiving the management instruction for the document distribution services at the document distribution system controller from the system administrator via the communication network.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing document distribution services of a plurality of document distribution providers, the method comprising:

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registering the document distribution services of the document distribution providers, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services;

presenting the document distribution services to a document provider having a document, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information; and

receiving a distribution selection for the document from the document provider, the distribution selection specifying at least one document distribution service of the document distribution services.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for managing document distribution services, the system comprising:

a document distribution system controller configured to have the document distribution services registered therewith, the document distribution services including at least one of print services, electronic mail services, and print publishing services,

wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to present the document distribution services to a document provider having a document, the document including at least one of textural and graphical information, and

wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a distribution selection for the document from the document provider, the distribution selection specifying at least one document distribution service of the document distribution services.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the document distribution system controller is adapted to receive a management instruction for the document distribution services from a system administrator.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, further comprising:

a communication network configured to link the document distribution system controller and the system administrator, wherein the document distribution system controller

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is adapted to receive the management instruction from the system administrator via the
communication network.